

# DERT FUND

DRY CLEANING ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE TRUST

## 2013 ANNUAL REPORT



MISSOURI  
DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES



## HISTORY

In 2000, Senate Bill 577 established the Drycleaning Environmental Response Trust Fund, or DERT Fund; and Section 260.960, Revised Statutes of Missouri, or RSMo, authorized it. The DERT Fund provides funding for the investigation, assessment and cleanup of releases of chlorinated solvents from dry cleaning facilities. The DERT Fund is a state fund and is administered by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' Hazardous Waste Program according to rules published by the Hazardous Waste Management Commission. The laws and regulations governing the DERT Fund are found in Sections 260.900 to 260.965 RSMo and 10 Code of State Regulations (CSR) 25-170.010 to 10 CSR 25-17.170 respectively. In 2011, Senate Bill 135 extended the expiration date of the DERT Fund from Aug. 28, 2012, to Aug. 28, 2017.

Operators of active dry cleaning facilities are required to register with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, as outlined in Section 260.915 RSMo. Each active and operating dry cleaning facility is required to pay an annual registration surcharge based upon the number of gallons of chlorinated solvents used during the calendar year, as outlined in Section 260.935 RSMo. This includes coin-operated dry cleaning facilities. Laundry facilities located in prisons, government entities, hotels, motels and industrial laundries are specifically exempt from the requirements of this statute. All solvent suppliers that sell or provide chlorinated solvents to a dry cleaning facility are required to pay the solvent surcharge fees to the department.

Section 260.955 RSMo, requires the department to provide an annual report to the General Assembly and the Governor regarding:

- Receipts of the fund during the preceding calendar year and the sources of the receipts.
- Disbursements from the fund during the preceding calendar year and the purposes of those disbursements.
- The extent of corrective action taken during the preceding calendar year.
- The prioritization of the sites for expenditures from the fund.

## DISBURSEMENTS FROM THE DERT FUND

Expenditures from the fund are used to:

1. Reimburse participants for the costs of addressing releases of chlorinated solvents from dry cleaning facilities. Participants are liable for the first \$25,000 of eligible cleanup related costs as a deductible.
2. Administer the program by collecting the surcharges and guiding and assisting the cleanup activities.

Table 1 describes the expenditures from the fund, which were prohibited by Section 260.925 RSMo until on or after July 1, 2002. Reimbursements for eligible environmental cleanup costs were not made until the regulations went into effect on May 30, 2006.

**TABLE 1: EXPENDITURES OF THE DERT FUND**

Calendar Year <sup>(1)</sup>	Salaries & Wages	Expense & Equipment	Fringe, etc. <sup>(4)</sup>	Reimbursements <sup>(5)</sup>	Total Costs
2000 <sup>(2)</sup>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
2001 <sup>(2)</sup>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
2002 <sup>(2)</sup>	\$1,163	\$0	\$2,350 <sup>(3)</sup>	\$0	\$3,513
2003	\$77,271	\$14,995	\$35,655	\$0	\$127,921
2004	\$106,083	\$59,642	\$73,437	\$0	\$239,162
2005	\$99,583	\$63,909	\$92,528	\$0	\$256,020
2006	\$187,488	\$145,789	\$140,850	\$176,031	\$650,158
2007	\$186,019	\$64,858	\$155,026	\$258,785	\$664,688
2008	\$192,387	\$25,814	\$171,884	\$140,000	\$530,085
2009	\$183,108	\$9,316	\$200,064	\$456,733	\$849,221
2010	\$178,337	\$8,450	\$172,540	\$303,651	\$662,978
2011	\$137,229	\$8,210	\$143,355	\$284,689	\$573,483
2012	\$104,777	\$4,086	\$158,751	\$495,468	\$763,082
2013	\$83,249	\$3,729	\$128,112	\$306,375	\$521,466
Totals	\$1,536,694	\$408,798	\$1,474,552	\$2,421,732	\$5,841,777

<sup>(1)</sup> Source: SAM II Data Warehouse Information.

<sup>(2)</sup> RSMo, Section 260.925 prohibited expenditures from the DERT Fund until on or after July 1, 2002.

<sup>(3)</sup> House Bill 1115, Section 15.220, RSMo, authorized a transfer of \$1,289 out of the State treasury on May 6, 2002, chargeable to various funds, such amounts as are necessary for allocation of costs to other funds in support of the state's central services, to the general revenue fund.

<sup>(4)</sup> Fringe amount includes Old Age Survivors and Disability Program, retirement system, deferred comp, Missouri Consolidated Health Care Plan, Cost Allocation Plan (OA), Cost Allocation (DNR) State Office Bldg Maintenance and Repair, etc.

<sup>(5)</sup> Reimbursements were not made until the regulations went into effect on May 30, 2006.

## RECEIPTS TO THE DERT FUND

The Hazardous Waste Program is responsible for the collection of all applicable surcharges from dry cleaning facilities and solvent suppliers. There are two main sources of revenue for the fund. The first is a dry cleaning facility annual registration surcharge paid by owners and operators of dry cleaning facilities (\$500, \$1,000 or \$1,500 based on chlorinated solvent used during the calendar year). The second is a solvent surcharge paid by the solvent suppliers on a quarterly basis of \$8 per gallon of perchloroethylene, trichloroethylene and other chlorinated solvents sold.

**TABLE 2: 2013 DRY CLEANER FACILITY ANNUAL REGISTRATION SURCHARGE**

Size of Facility	Facilities Registering by 5/1/13	Gallons of Solvent Used	Annual Registration Fee
Small	103	0 to 140	\$500
Medium	4	141 to 360	\$1,000
Large	2	>360	\$1,500

Table 3 describes the surcharge collections. The collection of the registration surcharges began on April 1, 2001. The collection of the solvent surcharge began with the April 1, 2001, to June 30, 2001, quarter.

**TABLE 3 - RECEIPTS TO THE DERT FUND<sup>(1)</sup>**

Calendar Year	Registration Surcharge	Solvent Surcharge	Interest & Penalties	Totals
2000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
2001	\$221,500	\$170,208	\$5,995	\$397,703
2002	\$222,150	\$435,859	\$17,886	\$675,895
2003	\$303,126	\$427,880	\$26,892	\$757,898
2004	\$319,488	\$409,293	\$43,178	\$771,959
2005	\$234,150	\$367,598	\$73,595	\$675,433 <sup>(2)</sup>
2006	\$204,993	\$308,678	\$121,077	\$635,248 <sup>(3)</sup>
2007	\$185,371	\$259,175	\$138,931	\$583,477
2008	\$191,888	\$237,874	\$132,377	\$562,139
2009	\$154,991	\$182,459	\$54,143	\$391,598 <sup>(4)</sup>
2010	\$135,573	\$173,448	\$28,387	\$337,408
2011	\$131,706	\$130,997	\$17,575	\$280,312 <sup>(5)</sup>
2012	\$113,415	\$105,978	\$13,029	\$233,442 <sup>(6)</sup>
2013	\$141,214	\$43,334	\$13,708	\$198,256
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$2,559,565</b>	<b>\$3,252,781</b>	<b>\$686,773</b>	<b>\$6,500,768</b>

<sup>(1)</sup> Source: SAM II Data Warehouse Information.

<sup>(2)</sup> 2005 total includes a \$90 refund to the fund.

<sup>(3)</sup> 2006 total includes a \$500 transfer in.

<sup>(4)</sup> 2009 total includes a \$5 vendor refund to the fund.

<sup>(5)</sup> 2011 total includes a \$34 overpayment.

<sup>(6)</sup> 2012 total includes a \$1,020 transfer in.

## Prioritization of Sites for Expenditures from the Fund

10 CSR 25-17.140 allocates DERT Fund monies to prioritized sites in the following proportions: high priority sites: 60 percent; medium priority sites: 30 percent; low priority sites: 10 percent. In any fiscal year, if the funding allocation in any priority category is not used, those funds may be reallocated to other priority categories, starting with any high priority sites and followed by medium and then low priority sites.

Sites applying to the program must submit the results of one soil, groundwater or surface water sample that exhibits contamination of dry cleaner solvent that is in excess of the department cleanup levels. The initial assessment will allow the department to determine the eligibility of the site in the fund. Some sites will provide enough information during the application process to receive a ranking score. Other sites will require additional information before a ranking score can be determined.

If the site has not provided enough information to have a ranking score determined, the department will direct the owner or operator to conduct the necessary assessments to determine a ranking score. The ranking score is based on such factors as environmental contamination, potential economics, potential receptors, risk based cleanup parameters, site history, threat to drinking water sources, threat to off-site properties, etc. A copy of the prioritization form is available on the department's DERT Fund website at [www.dnr.mo.gov/env/hwp/dert/hwpvcp-dryclean.htm](http://www.dnr.mo.gov/env/hwp/dert/hwpvcp-dryclean.htm).

On May 30, 2006, the DERT Fund began accepting applications for enrollment into the fund for oversight and reimbursement of investigation and cleanup activities. By the end of 2013, the fund had received applications for 42 sites. Five of these sites received a Certificate of Completion letter from the Brownfields/Voluntary Cleanup Program (BCVP) and enrolled into the fund for reimbursement of eligible costs. Fourteen of the 42 sites transferred from the BCVP to the DERT Fund during 2006.

By the end of 2013, the DERT Fund issued 15 Certificate of Completion letters and reimbursed \$2,421,732 in eligible costs to participants (See Table 1).

Annual revenues to the DERT Fund continue to decline from a high of \$771,959 during calendar year 2004 to a low of \$198,256, collected in calendar year 2013. The fund's ending balance as of December 31, 2013, was \$659,219.17. Given the continued decline in revenues, the possibility exists the fund may become insolvent before its sunset date of August 28, 2017. This decline in revenues can be attributed to several factors including: facilities switching to non-chlorinated solvents therefore, they are not being required to register and pay surcharges; newer drycleaning equipment/machines that are more efficient and use less solvent; facilities are consolidating cleaning operations to one location; and facilities have gone out of business.

During calendar year 2012, a liability analysis was conducted on the DERT Fund. From that analysis, the department determined that reimbursement of future costs for the investigation and remediation of contaminated dry cleaning sites may be limited or impossible. Reimbursement funds are not guaranteed for any work plans approved after Sept. 3, 2012, and the DERT Fund is not accepting any new applications for enrollment to the DERT Fund as of Sept. 3, 2012. Notices regarding the DERT Fund status were mailed in September 2012 to the DERT Fund participants and their consultants, the DERT Fund stakeholder group and to all active dry cleaners in Missouri using chlorinated solvents.

**TABLE 4 - DERT FUND SITES**

Site Name and City	Priority			Amount Reimbursed	Comments
	High	Med.	Low		
AG Cleaners, Kirkwood			X		Completion Letter issued on 12/2/13
Ambassador Cleaners, Ellisville			X		
American Cleaners, Ballwin		X			
American Cleaners - Dorsett Road, Maryland Heights			X	\$5,090	Completion Letter issued 5/21/09
American Cleaners - Fenton Plaza, Fenton		X		\$108,037	Completion Letter issued on 4/22/13
American Cleaners - Mid Rivers Mall, St. Peters*		X		\$144,486	Reimbursements completed
American Cleaners - Natural Bridge, Bridgeton		X		\$12,264	Completion Letter issued 11/29/10
American Cleaners - Southroads, St. Louis		X		\$53,547	Completion Letter issued 6/11/09
American Cleaners, University City		X		\$61,173	
A to Z Auto Center - Crestwood			X		
Bright and Free Laundry & Dry Cleaners - St. Louis			X	\$26,703	Completion Letter issued 7/29/13
Busy Bee Laundry, Rolla	X			\$391,594	
Charter Dry Cleaning - Ellisville		X		\$13,477	Completion Letter issued 4/9/13
Clayton Cleaners, St. Louis	X			\$60,089	
Colonial Cleaners - Arsenal Street, St. Louis	X			\$30,400	
Colonial Cleaners - Brentwood Blvd., St. Louis	X				Completion Letter issued 7/2/08
Community Laundromat, Ava	X				Terminated by DERT
Cypress Village Shopping Center, St. Ann*		X		\$366,200	Reimbursements completed
Davis Cleaners, Columbia					
First Capitol Cleaners, St. Charles	X			\$28,483	
Foster's Cleaners, Blue Springs			X	\$17,353	Completion Letter issued 6/18/09
Frontenac Cleaners - West End, St. Louis		X			Completion Letter issued 5/14/08
Grandview Plaza, Grandview			X	\$20,050	
Kingshighway Retail Center, Sikeston		X		\$44,498	
Ma Ma Bessie's Cleaners, Columbia					
McDonald's State Line, Kansas City		X			Completion Letter issued 7/26/12
Mission River/Antioch Cleaners, Kansas City		X		\$45,011	
Paramount Cleaners, Florissant*		X		\$42,035	Reimbursements completed
Park Lane Cleaners, Chillicothe			X	\$21,837	
Plaza Ford Ideal Laundry & Dry Cleaners Inc., Kansas City	X			\$40,197	
Premier Dry Cleaners of KC, Kansas City			X	\$22,797	Completion Letter issued 9/22/11
Regal Cleaners, University City		X		\$8,375	
Shamrock Cleaners, Kansas City					
Stanford Saper Cleaners, Kansas City*			X		No claims yet
Staten Island Cleaners, Florissant	X			\$203,562	Completion Letter issued 12/30/08
Tri-States Service Company - Boonville Ave., Springfield	X			\$389,237	
Tri-States Service Company - East Trafficway, Springfield		X		\$187,577	
U.S. Cleaners – St. Louis					
VIP Cleaners, St. Peters			X		Completion Letter issued on 1/13/10
West Gate Cleaners, St. Louis		X			Completion Letter issued on 10/19/07
Yorkshire Cleaners, Marlborough	X			\$70,309	
Zehrt Printing, St. Louis*		X		\$7,352	Reimbursements completed

\*Reimbursement only, the site received a Certificate of Completion letter from the Brownfields/Voluntary Cleanup Program.



TABLE 5: CORRECTIVE ACTION CONDUCTED IN 2013

Site Name and City	Corrective Action Conducted
AG Cleaners, Kirkwood	Groundwater monitoring to determine plume stability; Conduct risk assessment; Certificate of Completion letter issued
Ambassador Cleaners, Ellisville	Remediation via soil excavation; Groundwater monitoring to determine plume stability
American Cleaners, Ballwin	Additional soil sampling; Installation of additional wells and sampling to determine extent of contamination
American Cleaners-Fenton Plaza, Fenton	Conduct risk assessment; Certificate of Completion letter issued
Bright and Free Laundry & Dry Cleaners, St. Louis	Certificate of Completion letter issued
Charter Dry Cleaning, Ellisville	Certificate of Completion letter issued
U.S. Cleaners, St. Louis	Remediation via chemical oxidation; Groundwater monitoring
Yorkshire Cleaners, Marlborough	Groundwater monitoring

### COMPLIANCE WITH SURCHARGES

The two main sources of revenue for the fund are the dry cleaning facility annual registration surcharge and the solvent surcharge. State law requires that owners and operators of dry cleaning facilities pay the annual registration and that solvent suppliers pay the solvent surcharge, on a quarterly basis.

When a facility or solvent supplier is not in compliance with the law, the DERT Fund uses the department's conference, conciliation and persuasion process to return them to compliance. In 2006, the department's Hazardous Waste Program began referring facilities and solvent suppliers that continue to fail to comply, to the Attorney General's Office.

Active and abandoned dry cleaners that are eligible for the fund must be in compliance with all applicable environmental laws in order to receive funding for environmental cleanup. Consequently, it is in everyone's interest to assist businesses in returning to compliance with the law so they are covered by the fund.

On Sept. 1, 2008, the DERT Fund began notifying the registered solvent suppliers of active dry cleaning facilities that have not paid their required registration surcharges. According to 10 CSR 25-17.030(2)(G) "a solvent supplier shall not provide dry cleaning solvents to an active dry cleaning facility that has not paid its annual dry cleaning facility registration surcharge."

A solvent supplier who knowingly supplies solvent to a dry cleaning facility that is not in compliance with payment of the surcharges will be in violation of the above regulation. The DERT Fund also posts a listing of these dry cleaning facilities on its webpage, similar to that for solvent suppliers who do not pay the required solvent surcharges.

Table 6 indicates the compliance rate for annual dry cleaning facility registration surcharges. Failure to pay the registration surcharges represents approximately 90 percent of the violations that occur in the DERT Fund.

**TABLE 6: DRY CLEANING FACILITY REGISTRATION COMPLIANCE**

Calendar Year	No. of Active Facilities	Facilities Submitting Registration Form and Surcharges by 5/1/14	Percent Compliance with Annual Registration
2013	150	105	70.0

**TABLE 7: COMPLIANCE/ENFORCEMENT ISSUES WITH DRY CLEANING FACILITIES**

Calendar Year	Facilities Issued a NOV	Facilities Referred to Compliance/ Enforcement	Facilities Referred to AGO	Facilities Returned to Compliance
2013	28	21	13	140

**TABLE 8: SOLVENT SUPPLIERS QUARTERLY REPORTING COMPLIANCE**

Calendar Year	No. of Active Solvent Suppliers	Suppliers Submitting Quarterly Reports and Surcharges on Time	Percent Compliance Quarterly Reporting
2013	12	10	83

**TABLE 9: COMPLIANCE/ENFORCEMENT ISSUES WITH SOLVENT SUPPLIERS**

Calendar Year	Suppliers Issued a NOV	Suppliers Referred to Compliance/Enforcement	Suppliers Referred to AGO	Suppliers Returned to Compliance
2013	0	1	0	2

## OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

The department has additional information, publications, forms and answers to questions about the fund available on the Web at [www.dnr.mo.gov/env/hwp/dert/hwpvcp-dryclean.htm](http://www.dnr.mo.gov/env/hwp/dert/hwpvcp-dryclean.htm).

The department is a member of the State Coalition for the Remediation of Drycleaners. The coalition is comprised of states that have formal cleanup programs for drycleaning facilities. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Technology Innovation Office funds this coalition. The coalition conducts conference calls every other month and holds an annual meeting to discuss issues related to dry cleaner program administration and technical site investigation or cleanup topics. The coalition serves as an invaluable asset for Missouri as the department manages the fund and provides oversight of assessments and cleanup of dry cleaner sites.

## REFERENCES

State Program To Clean Up Drycleaners. Schmidt, Robin, R. DeZeeuw, L. Henning and D. Trippler. June 2001. State Coalition for Remediation of Drycleaners. [www.drycleancoalition.org/survey](http://www.drycleancoalition.org/survey)

Departmental Missouri Risk-Based Corrective Action Technical Guidance, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, April 2006. [www.dnr.mo.gov/env/hwp/mrbca/mrbca.htm](http://www.dnr.mo.gov/env/hwp/mrbca/mrbca.htm).

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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